2. Grant-in-aid to the State Government

(i) Establishment of new ITIs for Women; and

(ii) Strengthening of new Women's ITIs.

The scheme aims to expand the Women's Vocational Training Programme both quantitatively and qualitatively, to meet the growing skilled and semiskilled man power requirement for Industry/Service sector/domestic income generating industries and self employment. The scheme targets to expand the skill training facilities for women and to make the women employable in the industry as semi-skilled worker.

3. Vocational Rehabilitation of Women with Disabilities

The scheme aims to coordinate with various Govemment and non-government organisations to promote speedy rehabilitation of the disabled women by providing training, job and self-employment services. Vocational Rehabilitation Centres for Handicapped, under the Govemment of India, Ministry of Labour are at 17 places. VRC at Vadodara is exclusively for women and the other Centres assist both men and women with disabilities.

Ministry of Science and Technology

I. Science and Technology for Women

The main objectives of the scheme are to promote research, development and adaptation of technology to improve the life, working conditions and opportunities of gainful employment of women, especially in rural areas, and to increase the contribution of women to science and technology and development.

Primary Education in Rural Areas

† 223. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of education policies made so far since independence of the country, alongwith the recommendations made under the said policies, for imparting elementary education to all the children of rural areas;

(b) the details of necessary action taken by Govemment for implementing the said recommendations;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) to what extent Government have achieved success in this regard; and

(d) the present policy of Government with regard to imparting elementary education to all the children of age group of 6-14 years of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) The Directive Principles of the Constitution of India under Article 45 envisaged provision of free and compulsory education to all children up to the age of 14 years.

Following the above Constitutional directive, the National Policy on Education, 1968 stated that strenuous efforts should be made for the early fulfillment of the Directive Principle under Article 45 of the Constitution seeking to provide free and compulsory education for all children up to the age of 14. Suitable programmes should be developed to reduce the prevailing wastage and stagnation in schools and to ensure that every child who is enrolled in school successfully completes the prescribed course.

The National Policy on Education (NPE-1986), as revised in 1992, also reiterated that free and compulsory education of satisfactory quality should be provided to all children up to 14 years of age before we enter the Twenty-first Century.

(b) and (c) In pursuance of the above policies, the Government of India had launched a number of programmes/schemes like Operation Blackboard, Teacher Education, Non-formal Education, Mahila Samakhya, National Programme for Nutritional Support for Prinamry Education, District Primary Education Programme and State Specific Projects such as Lok Jumbish and Shikha Karmi Project in Rajasthan, Bihar Education Project (BEP) in Bihar and Basic Education Programme in Uttar Pradesh.

As a result, considerable progress has been achieved towards universal isation of elementary education. During the period 1950-51 to 1999-2000, the number of primary schools has increased by more than 3 times from 2.10 lakh in 1950-51 to 6.42 lakh in 1999-2000 whereas the number of upper primary shcools increased 15 times from 13,600 in 1950-51 to 1,98,000 in 1999-2000

The enrolment at primary stage has increased by 5.91 times between 1950-51 and 1999-2000, and for girls the increase was 9.16 times. At the upper primary level, the increase in enrolment during this period was more than 13 times, and in the case of girls the increase was about 33 times. The average annual growth

rates of enrolment at primary and upper primary levels were 1.73 per cent and 2.54 per cent respectively during the period 1950-51 and 1999-2000

(d) The Constitution (Ninety-Third Amendment) Bill, 2001 was passed by the Lok Sabha on 28-11 -2001. The Bill provides for free and compulsory education for all children in the age group 6-14 as a Fundamental Right.

The Government has also launched the Scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in November, 2000 to pursue universal elementary education in a mission mode.

The goals of SSA are as follows:-

vii) All 6-14 age children in shcool/EGS centre/bridge course by 2003,

viii) All 6-14 age children complete five year primary education by 2007 and

ix) All 6-14 age children complete eight years of schooling by 2010.

x) Focus on elementary education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;

xi) Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;

xii) Universal retention 2010.

This Ministry has also constituted National Level Mission under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister *vide* Resolution dated 2.**1**.200**1**.

Expert Committee to review education policy

224. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to formulate an expert committee to review the present education policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTEROF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (c) No, Sir. The National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986 as modified in 1992, evolved on a